



BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 1980

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 2

Blissymbolics
Communication
Institute

✦ gathering
✦ dissemination
⊗ blissymbolics
x much, many

350 Rumsey Road,
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4G 1R8
(416) 425-7835.

A MESSAGE TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FROM
GEORGE A. WILSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE
BCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 1, 1980

In recent months, three major events in the life of BCI have occurred.

Our Director, Mrs. Juane Hemsol, left the Blissymbolics Communication Institute on January 11, 1980. During the two-and-a-half years she was with us, the BCI progressed from a dependency upon seed funding to an increased ability to support itself with income derived from its instructional materials and training programmes. Mrs. Hemsol placed an emphasis upon the development of Associate Memberships and the establishment of structures and procedures to better enable BCI to fulfill its international responsibilities. We still have a long road ahead, but we thank Mrs. Hemsol for her contribution to the maturing of the BCI; and the Board of Directors and BCI staff wish her well.

The Board of Directors will be appointing a new director as soon as possible but, in the meantime, present staff will handle the normal activities of the Institute.

In June, 1979, the Board of Directors of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children undertook to give sufficient financial support to the BCI, subject to annual review, to give it the much needed time to further continue its progress towards self-sufficiency.

In January, 1980, further legal action was taken by Mr. Bliss bearing on the difficult relationship between himself and BCI (see my letter of March, 1978, Bulletin III, 2). On January 14, 1980, he moved the Court to grant him a temporary injunction restraining BCI and the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre from printing, publishing or distributing books and materials for 150 days. The matter was heard on Friday, January 18, 1980, and the Court refused Mr. Bliss' request. You may be interested to know that Mr. Bliss' action followed notification from our lawyer to him that we were sending Blissymbols for Use to press. This communication by our lawyer was part of our ongoing endeavour to keep Mr. Bliss informed of major BCI publishing activities.

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This recent event is the latest in a series of legal procedures initiated by Mr. Bliss since 1978. Our counsel advises that the 1975 Agreement between the BCI and Mr. Bliss continues to be binding and that BCI, Ontario Crippled Children's Centre and all other licensees of the BCI may proceed on the basis of "business as usual".

We regret very much that Mr. Bliss continues to attack the work of BCI both in and out of Court. As indicated in 1978, we would appreciate complaints or criticisms you may receive from Mr. Bliss, especially copies of any written communications.

Since June, 1978, Mr. Bliss has refrained from providing consultation to BCI regarding the Symbol System. As a result, the fees which would have been due him for consultant services for the period July, 1978 to July, 1979, have been retained by us pending finalization of the Court action. (During the period July, 1975 to June, 1978, a total of \$35,008. was paid to Mr. Bliss on behalf of the Semantography Trust of Australia, in accordance with Mr. Bliss' request.)

We are all aware that legal proceedings can be long and drawn out. We feel encouraged by the Court decision of January 18, 1980 refusing Mr. Bliss' request for a temporary injunction and we are pleased to share this news with you.

* * * *

BLISSYMBOLS FOR USE

Blissymbols for Use is in print! We have tried to produce the kind of book that you have told us you needed, and we hope that its usefulness to you will be some compensation for the long wait you have had.

As you know, the project to produce Blissymbols for Use was funded by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, Toronto, Canada. The Ontario Society for Crippled Children and the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre also gave support and financial assistance in the publication of the book.

As we began this project three years ago, we talked to Blissymbol users about their needs. We became aware of the need to provide an arrangement of symbols which would show that Blissymbolics is a system with its own unique structure, and which would teach users of the book more about the system.

We decided on three sections. The first section was to be based solely on the structure of the symbols, which would be useful for those faced with an unfamiliar symbol, or for those interested in structural relationships among symbols. The second section would group symbols with related meanings, useful for adding new items to one's Blissymbol vocabulary. The third section would be an index of all English words used in the book as equivalents for Blissymbols. Arriving at this innovative plan took about half the first year.

The symbol structure section (Finding Symbols) provided the next challenge. The coding system we developed was based upon 26 basic symbol shapes and provided a complete ordering of the symbols. Once the coding system was agreed upon, 1400 Blissymbols had to be carefully coded and sequenced.

The symbol meaning section (Finding Meanings) had a model, a children's thesaurus of English words, which provided many of the conceptual categories. We decided that we would provide, according to a consistent formula, a description, in English words, of the meaning parts of each symbol. Where necessary, a further English phrase would clarify the symbol's meaning. Writing these symbol descriptions and grouping the 1600 symbol entries (some symbols were placed in several categories) took most of 1978.

Much of the final year, 1979, was spent on the physical production of the book: having the manuscript typeset, reading the proofs, preparing the layout of the book, getting the illustrations drawn, and at every stage, checking, checking, checking.

We are proud of the book that has emerged from our collective efforts. However, the book contains so much varied detail that each time we have checked, we have found a mistake that we had missed before. We have had to resign ourselves to the fact that among the approximately 3500 symbol entries and related material some errors have slipped into the book despite our best efforts. Now that Blissymbols for Use is going into your hands, we would appreciate it if you would notify us of any errors that you find, so that we may correct them in subsequent editions. Above all, we hope that you will find this book a valuable resource and that you will enjoy using it.

UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS

CANADA

April 14-18 Elementary

Debbie Egan, Secretary
Training Department
Blissymbolics Communication Institute
350 Rumsey Road
Toronto, Ontario M4G 1R8
416-425-7835

May 19-22 Elementary

Barbara Collier
Children's Rehabilitation Centre
Pleasantville
P.O. Box 1403
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1C 5N5

July, 1980 Elementary

Debbie Egan, Secretary
Training Department
Blissymbolics Communication Institute
350 Rumsey Road
Toronto, Ontario M4G 1R8
416-425-7835

August 25-26 Update

Address as above

August 27-29 Special
Interest

Blissymbolics and the Mentally Retarded

Address as above

UNITED STATES

March 17-June 30 Elementary

(Correspondence Course - with two-day
workshop June 13-14, in Philadelphia).

Eugene T. McDonald, Ph.D.
Home of the Merciful Saviour for
Crippled Children
4400 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
215-222-2566

March 24-27

Elementary

Melvin Cohen, Ph.D.
Communication Disorders Service
Loma Linda University
Medical Centre
Loma Linda, California 92350
714-824-0800, ext. 3907

March 27-30

Elementary

Sandra Osborn
Forrest Park School for Physically
Handicapped Children
1600 Silver Star Road
Orlando, Florida 32804
305-293-5841

HAWAII WORKSHOP

The Hawaii workshop was cancelled last
year; however, the idea is one
Dr. M. Cohen plans to pursue this
summer.

For further information contact
Dr. M. Cohen at address noted above.

UNITED KINGDOM

April 11-15

Elementary

Blissymbolics Communication Resource
Centre (U.K.)
South Glamorgan Institute of Higher
Education
Llandaff Centre, Western Avenue
Llandaff, Cardiff
Wales

August 26-30

Elementary

R. Johnson, Senior Tutor
Castle Priory College
Thames Street
Wallingford, Oxon
England

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B.C.I. LOAN MATERIALS

VIDEO TAPES \$10.00*

Parent Involvement - 30 minutes
(1/2" video, reel to reel)

- . Ruth Harrington relating family experiences with a symbol user.
- . How it has affected their family and circle of friends.

Dorothy Price - 30 minutes
(1/2" video, reel to reel)

- . Conversation between Shirley McNaughton and Dorothy Price, discussing the history and development of Blissymbols and the Blissymbolics Communication Institute.

VIDEO CASSETTE \$10.00*

Parent Involvement - 30 minutes
(3/4" cassette)

- . See description above.

SLIDES \$ 8.00*

Basic 50 Slide Series

- . Accompanied by script.
- . These slides are available only to those who have received elementary workshop certification.

ABOVE ITEMS ARE LOANED FOR DATE OF PRESENTATION, TO BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY.

Say It With Symbols \$10.00* (3 books/set)

- . Only one book at a time may be loaned.
- . Accompanied by a teaching manual.
- . NFB slide series. A visual aid for teaching Blissymbolics.

LOANED FOR A PERIOD OF SIX WEEKS. WE ASK YOUR COOPERATION IN RETURNING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER VIEWING TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE NEXT BORROWER.

*POSTAGE NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE PRICES

PUBLICATIONS (No Charge)

- . C.K. Bliss, Semantography
- . H. Silverman, Autistic Study
- . C.K. Bliss, Book to the Film 'Mr. Symbol Man'

Publications may be borrowed for a period of six weeks.

You may pick up loan materials at our office. Contact Mary Durgy, 416-425-7835

ALL MATERIALS WILL BE MAILED "INSURED/ PARCEL POST" AND SHOULD BE RETURNED TO OUR OFFICE IN THE SAME WAY. ALLOW SEVEN TO TEN DAYS FOR DELIVERY.

MATERIALS BEING MAILED IN ONTARIO WILL BE SHIPPED BY "UNITED PARCEL SERVICE".

* * * *

FILMS AVAILABLE FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN BCI

Mr. Symbol Man - 16 mm, colour optical sound film of C.K. Bliss' work. 50 minutes

Symbol Boy - 16 mm, colour, animated line drawings, a vocabulary of 33 Blissymbols and their meanings are introduced. 5 minutes.

Available from:

Canada

- . Your local library.
- . Your local NFB office, or
- . Mr. G. Lynes
National Film Board of Canada
P.O. Box 6100
Montreal, P.Q. H3C 4H5
514-333-3495

United States

- . Mr. M. Solin, President
Benchmark Films, Inc.
145 Scarborough Road
Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. 10510

Outside North America

- . If there is no NFB office in your area, contact the Canadian or Australian Embassy, or Consulate Office.

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ANNOUNCING: THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL
ON STANDARDS FOR BLISSYMBOLICS

With completion of the work on Blissymbols for Use, BCI is able to turn its attention to an examination of Blissymbolics as it has evolved during eight years of use and to its further development as a primary or augmentative system of communication for persons who lack functional speech.

In order to meet these objectives we need to draw on the extensive experience of the more than 4000 trained symbol instructors and thousands of symbol users around the world. We are therefore setting up a two-part organization of volunteers to advise BCI.

I. INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON STANDARDS
FOR BLISSYMBOLICS

A. Composition

1. Representatives of BCI Resource Centres, Affiliates, Coordinating Committees, etc.
2. Selected individuals with experience in using or teaching Blissymbolics.
3. Selected individuals with expert knowledge in specialized relevant fields.

B. Responsibilities

To advise BCI by:

1. Recommending areas requiring study, in regard to
 - (i) System
 - (ii) Categories for which symbols are needed
2. Making specific proposals in regard to
 - (i) System
 - (ii) New symbols

3. Calling attention to special requirements/problems of particular languages
4. Responding to results of Study Committee deliberations.

II. BLISSYMBOLICS STUDY COMMITTEE

A. Composition

7-9 members drawn from the International Panel, either living in or near Toronto or otherwise able to commit themselves to regular meetings in Toronto.

1. Representing varied professional groups
2. Representing varied user populations.

B. Responsibilities

To work from Panel recommendations by:

1. Setting priorities for study
2. Formulating policy for development of the system
3. Examining existing BCI vocabulary and proposing necessary revisions and additions
4. Creating new symbols.

The BCI Symbol Department will coordinate the work of the Panel and the Study Committee and will submit their final proposals to C.K.Bliss and Dr. H.Silverman.

We invite individual instructors and users to become active participants in the study process. Please send to Jinny Storr, BCI Symbol Department, your questions and recommendations regarding the system and your requests and suggestions for new symbols. They will be forwarded to the Panel and Study Committee for their careful consideration. A wide variety of ideas based on experience and usage will contribute to the continuing growth of Blissymbolics.

March 4, 1980

"LAST MINUTE NEWS"

From the Chairman's Desk:

"Positive" and "Progressive" are two words that aptly describe our new Director, Bill Robson. His enthusiasm for his work and his desire for learning and personal growth has resulted in the building of an impressive background of experiences in the training and development of both adults and young people.

He started with the Imperial Life Insurance Company in Montreal and then Kingston, Ontario. His responsibilities at that time were the acquiring and training of new agents, as well as acting as an agent himself.

Then came the Boys' and Girls' Club of Canada where he worked for four years as an Associate Regional Director, responsible for the Boards of Directors and their training. For three years he worked as a youth worker for Rosemount Boys' and Girls' Club in Montreal, planning programs for one thousand teen-agers.

He also spent considerable time as a free-lance consultant for non-profit organizations such as The Boys' Brigade (Ontario Division), the National Council for Jewish Women (Canada), and the Red Cross Society (Ontario Division).

His role in each case depended on the situation and the needs of the organization. He focused on diagnosing organizational needs, designing learning programs to deal with the needs, and then implementing the programs.

Bill spent two years with Alcohol and Drug Concerns (Ontario) as Youth Director responsible for the development of preventative programs.

The most recent challenge for Bill was as Executive Director for Junior Achievement. In four years with J.A. he was able to reorganize the Board of Directors, establish short and long range goals, increase program participation and establish a high level of program quality throughout the operation.

Bill has some very definite goals in mind as far as our growth and direction are concerned. He intends to study BCI in depth, analyse its services to Resource Centres and those in the field, and make every effort to broaden and improve on BCI's supportive roles to these areas. We welcome his objective enthusiasm with great anticipation.

Bill, a resident of Mississauga, Ontario, is married and has two children, ages seven and ten. We welcome Bill to the BCI family.

G. A. Wilson, Chairman of the Board
Blissymbolics Communication Institute

SUMMER COURSE AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

Of interest to those working in the area of habilitation with severely handicapped persons:-

A special interdisciplinary course consisting of two sequential four week sessions is being held:

Session I June 16 - July 10

Session II July 14 - August 8

Students may enroll for Session I only OR for both Session I and Session II.

Course topics include:

- Communicative Interaction from a Neurodevelopmental Approach
- Review of Augmentative Communication Approaches, Techniques, and Intervention Program Considerations
- Seating and Positioning
- Review of Vocational and Leisure Skill Program Development

For full information write to:

Deborah Harris, Ph.D.
Trace Center
Room 314, Waisman Center
1500 Highland Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
(608) 262-6966

PLEASE NOTE: The Florida Elementary Workshop has been cancelled.

BLISSYMBOL "CORNER"

The following symbols from Blissymbols for Use will be particularly useful for the young child.

balloon



pictograph

kite



pictograph

pail



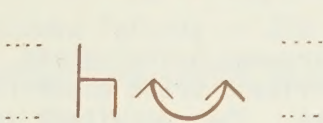
pictograph

swing



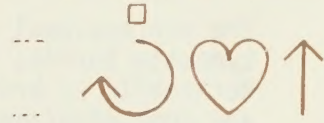
swing + thing indicator

rocking chair



chair + to swing

merry-go-round



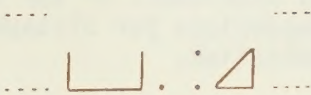
to circle + happy + thing indicator

slide



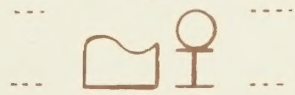
thing + diagonal down
arrow + child

sandbox



half enclosure + sand

wading pool



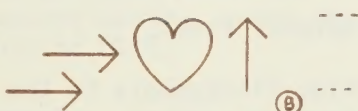
pool + child

block



pictograph from symbol
for thing

game



contest + happy

wagon



pictograph from
symbol for vehicle
with diagonal line
for handle

ⓑ indicates 1) a symbol which differs from the C.K.Bliss version either in symbol form or accompanying wording or 2) a new BCI symbol authorized in the absence of requested comment from C.K.Bliss.

ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF THE BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION SERVICE

The Blissymbolics Communication Institute is pleased that the Ontario Society for Crippled Children is providing support for new development in the application of Blissymbolics.

The Blissymbolics Communication Service (BCS) is a new service of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, sponsored by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children. It is available to any Blissymbol user or individual for whom Blissymbols have been recommended:

- upon medical referral;
- or
- upon application by parents, school or therapist, accompanied by medical approval.

The professional staff of the BCS -- special educators, Shirley McNaughton and Lynnette Norris; speech and language pathologists, Penny Parnes and Nora Rothschild -- bring to the Service a broad expertise in the field of Blissymbolics and communication augmentatives. The consultant services available to the BCS span the disciplines of medicine, occupational therapy, psychology, social service, rehabilitation engineering and linguistics.

BCS provides diagnostic assessment and support in planning and implementing Blissymbol instruction and communication.

Assessment may take the form of:

- initial assessment of the individual, offering recommendations for Blissymbol programme implementation;
- evaluation of communication effectiveness;
- evaluation of the communication potential of the individual who uses Blissymbols.

The emphasis of the BCS programme support service is upon helping the person (the facilitator), who is responsible for "facilitating" Blissymbol instruction for the Blissymbol user.

Programme assistance may take several forms:

- teaching Blissymbols to the facilitator (instructor, parent, volunteer);
- teaching instructional procedures to the facilitator through demonstration programmes;
- producing custom Blissymbol displays as required by BCS clients;

- referring Blissymbol users to appropriate additional services;
- developing curriculum and instructional materials as they relate to BCS clients;
- facilitating the integration of Blissymbol users in the community;
- providing information regarding the BCS and Blissymbol instructional materials;
- long-term follow-up support as required.

Of interest to all Associate Members: the Service is available to persons not residents of Ontario, whose geographical region lacks assessment and programme assistance services. If information is desired regarding time required, fees, and accommodation, please write Shirley McNaughton, giving details of type of assistance needed.

For further information please contact:

Shirley McNaughton
Director
Blissymbolics Communication Service
Ontario Crippled Children's Centre
350 Rumsey Road
Toronto, Ontario
M3G 1R8
(416) 425-7835

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NEW OFFICES

On October 30, 1979 BCI moved into its new quarters on the second floor of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre. In addition to BCI the offices house the Blissymbolics Communication Service, under the direction of Shirley McNaughton, and the Technical Aids Resource Centre, under the direction of Margrit Beesley. BCS and TARC are departments of OCCO.

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OF INTEREST TO ALL BLISSYMBOL USERS
AND INSTRUCTORS ...

The International Conference on Rehabilitation Engineering will take place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada June 16-20, 1980, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.

Program Outline:

- technical workshops
- scientific papers
- instructional courses
- exhibit area - more than 100 booths from USA, Europe and Canada (open throughout the conference but free to the public on Wednesday, June 18, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.)
- hospitality booth which will offer information regarding accessibility, transportation and the like, in and about Toronto.

For general information contact:

Conference Secretariat
Canadian Rehabilitation Council
for the Disabled
Suite #2110
One Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1E5

For consumer information:

Miss Margaret Young, O.T.
Ontario Crippled Children's
Centre
350 Rumsey Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4G 1R8
425-6220 ext. 331

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EXCITING NEW PRODUCTS

Blissymbols for Use (compiled and edited by B. Hehner)

BCI's new source book Blissymbols for Use is now available at a cost of \$30.00

(10% discount to Associate Members)

The Blissymbol Opposite Series

Althea Cocking has written delightful children's books on opposite meanings which are distributed by the BCI.

- . Book One: Learning Opposites - Story, My Two Fat Fishes.
- . Book Two: Making Opposites - simple introduction to concept of opposite and opposite meaning strategy through readings about four pairs of opposites.
- . Workbook: Using Opposites - Workbook in which students select the appropriate symbol to arrive at the opposite meaning.

An enjoyable way to learn about opposites and to use the opposite meaning strategy.

\$18.00 for set of three

FLASHCARDS (248 symbols)

These are 2-5/8" square in size (black and white or colour coded), in a booklet format 6 flashcards by 4 flashcards in size. They are in order of symbol alphabet within the parts of speech (indicated by colour coding) and are designed to fit a 3 x 3 square matrix on the 400 grid. They can be used for drills and games or for an introductory display.

French or English \$16.00 set

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In a letter to BCI, Charles Bliss requested that the following notice be printed:

Anyone wishing to obtain some of Charles Bliss' books should write an air letter to his address in Sydney and immediately full information about all his publications will be forwarded. The exact address is:
Charles K. Bliss, P.O. Box 222, Coogee, Sydney, Australia 2034.

PUBLICATIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

To aid BCI in determining what publications and teaching materials will be needed in the future, we would welcome recommendations from people working in the field. Please complete the questionnaire below and return it to Jinny Storr, BCI, 350 Rumsey Road, Toronto, Canada M4G 1R8

- 1) What types of publications and/or teaching materials are needed to assist Blissymbolics instruction for users?

e.g. Worksheets, easy readers

- 2) What publications are needed to motivate/encourage non-speaking people to use Blissymbols?

- 3) What kinds of resource materials are needed by Blissymbol instructors?

- 4) What topic areas require development through publications?

- 5) Please list the items above in order of priority.

- 6) What age groups need particular attention.

2 - 4 years

5 - 8 years

8 - 12 years

adolescent

adult, specify age

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Help Easter Seals
help Crippled Children.



BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION INSTITUTE
350 RUMSEY ROAD
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA M4G 1R8

CARLSSON, Britt, Instructor
Skrivarevagen 15
442 00 Kungälv
SWEDEN

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Debbie Egan, Secretary
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Barbara Kates)
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